

# STARS AND STRIPES®

**Comedian Carolla is becoming a hot Hollywood property**

Page 17

Adam Carolla



**U.S. Marine to be tried in Romanian rock star's death**

Page 8



**Saints exploring options to ravaged city, Superdome**

Back page

Volume 64, No.138 © SS 2005 G

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2005

50¢

# Guard struggles to contain mass chaos in New Orleans

30,000 ordered to hurricane zone for security, rescue operations Pages 6, 9

## No sex, please

Policy prohibits wedded bliss for some deployed couples

Page 3



Spc. Sally Dominique opens a birthday present from her husband, Spc. Seth Dominique, in Mosul, Iraq. Their unit prohibits soldiers from engaging in any type of sexual activity.

PHOTO BY RICK EMERT/Stars and Stripes. PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY PETER PHOTIKOE/Stars and Stripes



RICK EMMETT/Stars and Stripes

From left, 1st Lt. Joshua Sprowls, 1st Lt. Heather Sprowls, Spc. Dawn Andreoli and Spc. Ivan Andreoli make up two of the seven married couples serving with the 94th Engineer Combat Battalion (Heavy) and its attached unit, the 535th Engineer Company (Combat Support Equipment) in Mosul, Iraq.

# A couple of rules for couples in Iraq

## Husbands and wives serving together find they can't reach out and touch

BY RICK EMMETT  
Stars and Stripes

MOSUL, Iraq — The bad news: You're going to Mosul, Iraq, for a year.

The good news: You can bring your spouse.

And now the conditions: separate rooms and hands-off for a year.

It may seem like the chance of a lifetime — deployment without the separation.

But most of the seven married couples deployed together to Iraq from the 94th Engineer Combat Battalion (Heavy) and its attached unit, the 535th Engineer Company (Combat Support Equipment), are finding there isn't much wedded bliss as they live more like neighbors than husband and wife.

Army regulation prohibits public displays of affection while in uniform, and the battalion's policy for the deployment is no sexual activity, whether married or single.

None of the couples in Iraq had visions of living together in a quaint little house with a patch of lush grass and a white picket fence, but they also didn't expect to be deployed together or living

on the same base, often going days — or even months — without seeing one another.

"Sometimes we don't get to see each other for days, and he lives right across the street," said Staff Sgt. Chasity Belzaira. She and her husband, Staff Sgt. Joseph Belzaira, are in leadership positions

in the 94th Engineers, and long work days prevent them from even having meals together on some days. "There is so much work, and our schedules are different most of the time."

"We don't get to see much of each other," said Spc. Dawn Andreoli, of the 535th Engineers, who

was separated from her husband, Spc. Ivan Andreoli, for four months because the two were working at separate remote locations. "One of us might be on a convoy or maybe out at a remote site. We are here together, but it's like we're not married."

More than half of the couples

have been married one year or less, and are spending their "honeymoons" in sunny Mosul.

Spc. Melissa and Ryan Benson, both of the 94th Engineers, went home on leave three months ago to get married.

"We came back, and people are always asking me: 'So, how's married life? I don't really know,'" Melissa Benson said.

They can visit their spouse's rooms from 6 to 10 p.m. on work days and noon to 10 p.m. on days off, and eating meals together is OK as long as their schedules allow it.

And that's more than most married soldiers get. The majority of the battalion's married soldiers had to leave their spouses and children behind.

There are some who resent that these couples are here together while most of the soldiers have to endure the separation.

"Some of the soldiers say things about it," said Spc. Seth Dominique, of the 94th Engineers. Dominique was based out of Combat Outpost Ravah, a remote site near the Syrian border, for more than a month. "My wife [Spc. Sally Dominique] was back at Marez, and soldiers said things

## Grin, but don't bare it

MOSUL, Iraq — Save the Lee Greenwood and Toby Keith anthems for the homecoming.

During their deployment, the request line for some married soldiers serving together in Iraq would more fittingly include tunes such as "Can't Get No Satisfaction" by the Rolling Stones or "Sexual Healing" by the late Marvin Gaye.

General Order No. 1, which, among other conduct issues, prohibits soldiers from drinking alcohol while deployed, also covers sexual activity.

The policy on sex varies from unit to unit, but for the 94th Engineer Combat Battalion (Heavy) and its attached unit, the 535th Engineer Company (Combat Support Equipment), the policy is no sex at all, whether married or single.

But in Afghanistan, Lt. Col. Jerry O'Hara, a spokesman for Combined Joint Task Force-76, said there is no policy against married service members in the task force sharing quarters. In fact, he said the command allows that to happen "to the extent possible."

To make matters worse for soldiers in Iraq, Army regulations prohibit soldiers from kissing, hugging or holding hands in public while in uniform — and soldiers deployed to Iraq are always in either desert camouflage or physical training uniforms. All soldiers share tents with fellow troops; therefore, they are always in the public eye.

For the seven married soldier couples deployed together here, well, "Love Hurts."

"It makes it hard to take when you talk to married couples in other units here, and they are allowed to live together," said 1st Lt. Heather Sprowls, of the 535th Engineers.

While some units may make provisions for married soldiers to live together and engage in sexual activity, the 94th opted to make it abstinence across the board.

SEE NO-NO ON PAGE 5

SEE MARRIED ON PAGE 5

# Al-Qaida claims London bombs, threatens Europe

The Associated Press

CAIRO, Egypt — Al-Qaida has claimed responsibility for the July 7 bombings in London, and has threatened more attacks in Europe, the pan-Arab television channel Al-Jazeera broadcast Thursday.

The channel said it would broadcast late on Thursday night a new tape by Al-Qaida's No. 2, Ayman al-Zawahiri, and the last testament of one of the suicide bombers of the July 7 attacks in London. The broadcast showed pictures of al-Zawahiri and the bomber, Mohammad Sidique Khan, but it did not air their comments.

"Al-Jazeera received a videotape from al-Qaida claiming responsibility for the London bombing," the newscaster said.

*"Western citizens should no longer feel safe, the Web site says."*

On its Web site, the Qatar-based channel said that in the tape al-Zawahiri threatens more attacks on "enemy territory," particularly in Europe because the continent had ignored an offer of truce from al-Qaida's leader, Osama bin Laden.

After the Madrid bombings in March last year, bin Laden was reported to have offered European countries a three-month ceasefire in which he invited them to consider his demands.

The newscaster added that on the tape al-Zawahiri says the July 7 attacks were a "slap" to the policies of British Prime Minister Tony Blair, and that they moved the battle to "the enemy's land."

On the Web site, the bomber, Sidique Khan was quoted as saying on his tape that "Western citizens should no longer feel safe as they would be targeted in future."

In four bombings on the London transport system on July 7, 56 people were killed.

## U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Wednesday at least 1,883 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 1,460 died as a result of hostile action, according to the military's numbers.

The figures include five military civilians.

The AP count is four higher than the Defense Department's tally, last updated at 10 a.m. EDT Wednesday.

The British military has reported 93 deaths; Italy, 26; Ukraine, 18; Poland, 17; Bulgaria, 13; Spain, 11; Slovakia, three; El Salvador, Estonia, Thailand and the Netherlands, two each; and Denmark, Hungary, Kazakhstan and Latvia one death each.

The latest deaths reported by the military:

■ A soldier was killed when a bomb exploded near his patrol Wednesday, southeast of Samarra.

■ A soldier was killed when a bomb exploded Tuesday, near Iskandariyah.

The latest identifications reported by the military:

■ Army Chief Warrant Officer Dennis P. Hay, 32, Valdosta, Ga., killed by small-arms fire Monday in Tal Afar, after his helicopter came under attack; assigned to 4th Squadron, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment, Fort Carson, Colo.

■ Army 2nd Lt. Charles R. Rubado, 23, Clearwater, Fla., killed by small-arms fire Monday in Tal Afar after his tank came under attack; assigned to 1st Squadron, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment, Fort Carson, Colo.

## No-no: Rules apply to everyone in battalion

NO-NO, FROM PAGE 3

"To be fair and equitable, it had to apply to everybody," said Lt. Col. Alfred Pantano, battalion commander. There are 14 married soldiers deployed together to Iraq, but there are more than 600 soldiers in all from the battalion.

The reasoning behind the policy is to maintain combat readiness.

"If a female soldier gets pregnant and has to be redeployed [to Germany] — which is the standard — then that cuts away at our combat power," Pantano said. He checked with Task Force Freedom, which his battalion supports, and with the judge advocate general's office before implementing the policy to ensure it was both legal and enforceable, he said.

No seven months into the deployment, the soldiers seem to have accepted the policy.

"We have a lot of other things that we need to concentrate on and focus on in Iraq for that policy to be that big of an issue," said Spc. Ivan Andreoli, of the 535th Engineers. "I can deal with it, if we can see each other. That's more than most married soldiers get when they are deployed."

However, they still aren't happy with General Order No. 1. Most of them have been married two years or less and haven't really been able to set up house between their two deployments to Iraq.

The newlyweds, they are living through a yearlong, old-fashioned courtship.

"Heather and I live two buildings away from each other," said 1st Lt. Joshua Spruiell, of the 94th Engineers. "We get to see each other, but as far as a normal married life goes, it doesn't exist here."

Now in their fourth year of marriage, Sgt. 1st Class Norrine Gladney, and Sgt. Marc Gladney, both of the 94th Engineers, are an old married couple compared to the others, and the stress of the deployment sometimes makes them fight like one.

"We argue more here than we do at home and over stupid little things," Norrine Gladney said. "It's just the stress of the deployment and the frustration. I can't hug him or kiss him. I can't do the things a wife likes to do for her husband."

Like any Army policy, it's the law of the land and meant to be followed. But there are some unique situations where the command gives a little slack.

"I warned my first sergeant that I was going to lose my military bearing for a minute when I saw my husband again and give him a great big hug," said Spc. Dawn Andreoli, of the 535th Engineers. She and Spc. Ivan Andreoli had been separated for four of the deployment's first seven months, because they were working on projects at different remote locations.

The soldiers didn't comment on how strictly they follow the policy, and it's not like the command is waiting in the shadows to spot a brief embrace or a quick kiss.

"I'm not interested in trying to regulate matters of the heart,"

## Married: Serving together a benefit

MARRIED, FROM PAGE 3

like: "Now you know what I'm going through."

A poll of about 20 soldiers on Forward Operating Base Marez showed that most of them are either indifferent about these couples being deployed together or happy for them.

"If they can have their spouses here, then good for them," said Spc. Clifford Ehle, of the 94th Engineers. "I don't think my wife and I could work together that closely. In a way, it's worse for them, because they always know what their spouse is doing."

The couples are well aware of that negative aspect of being deployed together.

"You know when the other one is going outside the gate, what they are doing and when they would be back," said Ryan Benson. "If they aren't back at the scheduled time, you're biting your nails and worrying about when they may have happened. Is it a flat tire or they hit by [a roadside bomb]?"

But soldiers have to weigh all the negatives of a deployment against the obvious positive side of having their spouses with them.

"Some soldiers have already been separated from their families for seven months," said Sally Dominique, of the 94th Engineers. "They have missed births and their babies' first steps. I know we're lucky to be here together. There's always going to be some kind of policy that affects you, and there will always be times that you worry. But we're together. I wouldn't want it any other way."

Reporter Kent Harris contributed to this report.

E-mail Rick Emett at: [emettr@mil.strips.osd.mil](mailto:emettr@mil.strips.osd.mil)

Pantano said. "But I have to make sure we can support our mission, and that I honor everybody's rights. We are not watching around every corner to see what they're doing. We've got missions to accomplish. Every time you have to deal with personnel matters like inappropriate conduct, it draws the command's focus away from the mission that, quite frankly, are more important. It's a distraction."

So until they can go on rest and recuperation leave or until they redeploy in about five months, the soldiers have to look for non-physical ways to be passionate.

"I'm happy if I can just look at her and sit beside her for a few hours a day," said Spc. Seth Dominique of his wife, Spc. Sally Dominique, both of the 94th Engineer. "I can live with the [policy] as long I have that to me through the day-to-day here."

—Rick Emett

**Sizzlin' Salsa Night**  
Salsa, Merengue & Bachata  
Sept. 2, 16 & 30  
Oct. 7 & 21  
9pm-3am  
The Cove  
Mannheim, Sullivan Barracks, Bldg. 240  
385-2884; 0621-730-2884, 0172-655-0151